

*The Privatization Process in Central Europe.* Edited by ROMAN FRYDMAN, ANDRZEJ RAPACZYNSKI, JOHN EARLE, *et al.* [Budapest, London and New York: Central European University Press. 1993. xiii + 262 pp. ISBN-1-85866-000-9. £10 (pbk)]

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THESE books, which form the first two volumes of the *Central European University Privatization Reports*, have been produced by the Privatization Project of the Central European University. The overall purpose of the Project is "to create a regional framework for the promotion and improvement of public policies in the area of privatization in Eastern Europe" through various means including "the creation of a forum for the collection and exchange of information concerning privatization in all the countries of the region" (p.x, common to both volumes).

Each chapter in both volumes examines the privatisation and related policies of a particular State, while the chapters themselves are consistently divided into five sections: an introduction, an assessment of the "economic environment", an analysis of present forms of ownership, an evaluation of the privatisation process and a description of measures adopted for the "corporatization" of State-owned enterprises.

As an overview of the privatisation process in Central and Eastern Europe, these books are undoubtedly useful. However, the reader should be warned that, because of the pace of legislative change in the region, and the relative volatility of voting patterns in societies which have not yet adjusted to market conditions, such information needs to be updated frequently. Recent changes of government in Hungary, Slovakia and Bulgaria may already warrant some urgent revisions.

However, while these books may provide helpful background information to practising lawyers, to officials or international organisations and to foreign ministry personnel, they are a trifle disappointing from an academic perspective. It is not the details or mechanics of privatisation which will prove of enduring interest. Rather, it is the triumph of the ideology of privatisation over contending ideologies, following the overthrow of communism, which deserves much more elaborate consideration, as well as the shabby manipulations and covert chicanery which allowed so many to profit from the privatisation process in the post-communist States.

ISTVAN POGANY

*The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA): A Guide to the Free Movement of Goods and Competition Rules.* By THÉRÈSE BLANCHET, RISTO PIIPPOENEN and MARIA WESTMAN-CLÉMENT. [Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1994. xxii + 500 pp. ISBN 0-19-825892-5. £50]

THIS book provides a useful guide to an understanding of the EEA, which currently applies to the EC, Norway and Iceland, with Liechtenstein expected to join later, possibly as early as 1 May 1995. While the substantive provisions of the EEA Agreement to a large extent mirror the EC Treaty, the authors make clear in their preface that they have not intended to write a book on EC law *à la sauce* EEA but, rather, to give the reader a sort of "survival kit" to the EEA Agreement concentrating on areas of primary interest for business and industry. Thus, in addition to an introduction and a summary of the structure, objectives and functioning of the EEA Agreement, the book discusses the provisions in the Agreement regarding product coverage and rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, intellectual property, product liability, public procurement, competition, State monopolies and public undertakings and State